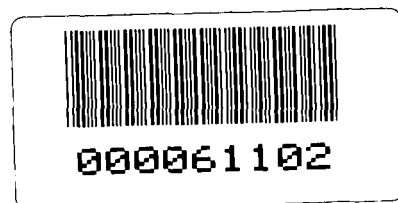


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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 1996 5400.1

TO: L. E. Woods, Ecology, Bldg. T130C, X3378

FROM: *M.B. Murdock*
M. B. Murdock, Ecology, Bldg. T893B, X3560

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OF COLLECTION OF DEAD HAWK AND DEAD DUCK - MBM - 022- 96

On March 4, 1996, with concurrence from yourself and John Stover (DOE, RFFO), I notified U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Special Agent Leo Suazo of my discovery and collection of two dead birds. These two birds, an adult male redhead duck, and an immature red-tailed hawk were found dead on the Site property. The redhead was killed in a collision with a powerline over the C-2 dam on March 4, 1996, and collected that day. The red-tailed hawk was collected March 1, 1996, but the date and cause of death could not be determined due to the condition of the carcass.

Mr. Suazo was interested in my report and particularly in the description of the injury to the duck. He stated that ducks occasionally hit powerlines, and that such a death is not considered a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He gave me permission to retain the carcass for whatever salvage use could be made of it. Since the hawk was found along lower Woman Creek, a good ways from any Site activities, he did not ask to inspect the carcass. I described the condition of the remains as well as I could, noting that I had only found about half the bird. We concluded that since the carcass was partially consumed, and thoroughly mummified, cause of death would be difficult to determine. I was given permission to retain the hawk for salvage under our federal salvage permit as well.

During our subsequent conversation, Mr. Suazo indicated to me that he was pleased to have someone from the Site communicating so openly with the USFWS Special Agents about bird mortality at Rocky Flats. He again reiterated that the recent openness and communication about occurrences at the Site has given him a much higher confidence level than in the past, and he hopes that it can continue. This confidence in the Site's ecological personnel appears to make him less likely to look for violations, and more likely to work with us to solve problems without citations.

Mr Suazo also asked me if we keep records of bird mortality. I told him that I log in any salvage specimens that I handle, and that these are reported under our salvage permit in the required annual report. He asked if he could receive copies of that report for his records. Since this report is handled under Rocky Mountain Remediation Services correspondence, I believe it might be appropriate to provide Mr. Suazo a copy of the 1995 report, if DOE, RFFO has no objection.

ADMIN RECCRD

SW-A-004207

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L. E. Woods
March 6, 1996
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I should note for the record, that Special Agent Roger Gephart is the Site's official contact, but that when he is unavailable, Special Agent Leo Suazo, who is his supervisor, is the alternate contact. Mr. Gephart is frequently in the field, and unavailable.

Should you have questions or require further information, please contact me at extension 3560.

MBM:mbm

cc:
C. S. Evans
J. D. Krause
ERPD Records File (2)

